

WO-359

c. 1853

Holly Grove Farm  
Berlin vicinity  
Private

Known historically as the Holly Grove farm or the Laban J. Taylor swamp farm, this two-and-a-half story shingled frame dwelling is one of the few intact farmhouses that still stand along the US Route 50 corridor between Berlin and Ocean City. Estimated to date to the third quarter of the nineteenth century, the house is distinctive for its wood shingled exterior and well preserved condition.

Construction of the house is estimated to date to the period of Laban J. Taylor's ownership which stretched from his purchase of the tract called "Holly Grove" in 1853 to the settlement of his estate in December 1872. Laban J. Taylor was one of the wealthiest farmers in living in northeastern Worcester County during the mid to late nineteenth century. He is listed as a farmer in the 1860 U.S. Census with his wife Sally and three children, Margaretta, Thomas, and Laban. His personal and real estate holdings were valued together at \$16,000. Laban J. Taylor's principal residence was in the vicinity of Taylorville, while "Holly Grove" was a subsidiary property evidently handled by tenants.

The early history of Holly Grove dates back to the original patent by Powell Patey in 1748, and Patey family ownership continued until the early nineteenth century. After Laban Taylor's death his holdings were sold by estate trustee, Ephraim King Wilson, to Thomas N. Quillen. In his will of 1884 Thomas N. Quillen bequeathed the "Laban Taylor swamp farm" to his daughter Sallie M. Cropper, and the land remained in Cropper family hands until the turn of the century. Since the early 1940s the property has been held by the Fisher family.

HISTORIC CONTEXT INFORMATION

Resource Name: HOLLY GROVE FARM

MHT Inventory Number: W0-359

MARYLAND COMPREHENSIVE HISTORIC PRESERVATION PLAN DATA:

- 1) Historic Period Theme(s):     AGRICULTURE  
   ARCHITECTURE
- 2) Geographic Orientation:       EASTERN SHORE
- 3) Chronological/Developmental Period(s):  
   AGRARAIN/INDUSTRIAL TRANSITION  
   1815-1870
- 4) Resource Type(s):               SINGLE-FAMILY FARM DWELLING

# Maryland Historical Trust State Historic Sites Inventory Form

Survey No. WO-359

Magi No.

DOE ☐ yes ☐ no

## 1. Name (indicate preferred name)

historic HOLLY GROVE FARM, LABAN TAYLOR SWAMP FARM

and/or common

## 2. Location

street & number South side of US Route 50 ☐ not for publication

city, town Berlin ☒ vicinity of congressional district First

state Maryland county Worcester

## 3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> agriculture
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational
<input type="checkbox"/> site	<b>Public Acquisition</b>	<b>Accessible</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> not applicable	<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military
			<input type="checkbox"/> museum
			<input type="checkbox"/> park
			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private residence
			<input type="checkbox"/> religious
			<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
			<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
			<input type="checkbox"/> other:

## 4. Owner of Property (give names and mailing addresses of all owners)

name Donald Ross Fisher

street & number Fisher's Popcorn Stand telephone no.: 289-5638

city, town Deale City state and zip code MD 21842

## 5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Worcester County Clerk of Court liber 933

street & number Worcester County Courthouse folio 528

city, town Snow Hill state Md

## 6. Representation in Existing Historical Surveys

title

date ☐ federal ☐ state ☐ county ☐ local

pository for survey records

city, town state

## 7. Description

Survey No. WO-359

Condition		Check one	Check one
<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site
<input type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> altered	<input type="checkbox"/> moved
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed		date of move _____

Prepare both a summary paragraph and a general description of the resource and its various elements as it exists today.

The Holly Grove farm, known historically as the Laban J. Taylor swamp farm, is located on the south side of US Route 50 near Taylorville and east of Berlin, Worcester County, Maryland. The two-and-a-half story, four-bay farmhouse faces north with the gable roof oriented on an east/west axis.

Built around 1853, this two-and-a-half story, four-bay frame dwelling is supported on a low brick pier foundation, and the house is uniformly sheathed with wood shingles. The steeply pitched gable roof is covered with asphalt shingles. Attached to the back of the main house is a single story shingle walled kitchen wing.

The north (main) elevation is an asymmetrical four-bay facade with an enclosed hip roof porch sheltering the main entrance. To each side of the porch is a two-over-two sash window. The second floor is lighted by four slightly unevenly placed two-over-two sash windows. Centered on the roof is a large cross gable pierced by a smaller two-over-two sash window. The base of the roof is finished with a boxed cornice, while the eaves on each end extend slightly beyond the wall surface.

The west gable end is marked by a pair of two-over-two sash windows that flank the interior end brick stack. In addition a pair of four-pane windows flank the stack and light the attic. The chimney top is finished with a corbelled cap.

The east gable end is finished in a similar manner with two-over-two sash windows and small four-pane attic lights. An interior end brick stack rises through the roof.

Attached to the back of the main block is a single story shingle walled kitchen wing. The west side of the kitchen is marked by a center partially glazed door and flanking two-over-two sash windows. A boxed cornice trims the base of the roof. The south end of the kitchen wing is covered with vinyl siding. An interior end brick stack rises through the roof flanked to one side by small two-over-two attic sash. The east side of the kitchen wing is covered by a single-story infill.

The interior was not seen.

## 8. Significance

Survey No.

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Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

**Specific dates****Builder/Architect**

check: Applicable Criteria: ☐ A ☐ B ☒ C ☐ D  
and/or

Applicable Exception: ☐ A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D ☐ E ☐ F ☐ G

Level of Significance: ☐ national ☐ state ☒ local

Prepare both a summary paragraph of significance and a general statement of history and support.

Known historically as the Holly Grove farm or the Laban J. Taylor swamp farm, this two-and-a-half story shingled frame dwelling is one of the few intact farmhouses that still stand along the US Route 50 corridor between Berlin and Ocean City. Estimated to date to the third quarter of the nineteenth century, the house is distinctive for its wood shingled exterior and relatively intact condition.

Construction of the house is estimated to date to the period of Laban J. Taylor's ownership which stretched from his purchase of the tract called "Holly Grove" to the settlement of his estate in December 1872.(ITM 2/384) Laban J. Taylor was one of the wealthiest farmers in living in northeastern Worcester County during the mid to late nineteenth century. He is listed as a farmer in the 1860 U.S. Census with his wife Sally and three children, Margaretta, Thomas, and Laban. His personal and real estate holdings were valued together at \$16,000. Laban J. Taylor principal residence was in the vicinity of Taylorville, while Holly Grove was a subsidiary property evidently handled by tenants.

The early history of Holly Grove dates back to the original patent by Powell Patey in 1748, and Patey family ownership continued until the early nineteenth century. After Laban Taylor's death his holdings were sold by estate trustee, Ephraim King Wilson, to Thomas N. Quillen. In his will of 1884 Thomas N. Quillen bequeathed the "Laban Taylor swamp farm" to his daughter Sallie M. Cropper, and the land remained in Cropper family hands until the turn of the century.(FHP 14/28) Since the early 1940s the property has been held by the Fisher family.

## 9. Major Bibliographical References

Survey No. W0-359

## 10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property \_\_\_\_\_

Quadrangle name \_\_\_\_\_

Quadrangle scale \_\_\_\_\_

UTM References do NOT complete UTM references

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Zone Easting Northing

B 

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Zone Easting Northing

C 

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D 

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Verbal boundary description and justification

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state	code	county	code
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state	code	county	code
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## 11. Form Prepared By

name/title Paul B. Touart, Architectural Historian

organization Private Consultant/Worcester Co. date 5/30/90

street & number P. O. Box 5 telephone 301-651-1094

city or town Westover state Md 21871

The Maryland Historic Sites Inventory was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 supplement.

The survey and inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

return to: Maryland Historical Trust  
Shaw House  
21 State Circle  
Annapolis, Maryland 21401  
(301) 269-2438

WO-359  
HOLLY GROVE FARM  
Taylorville vicinity, Maryland  
Chain of title

933/528                      John T. Fisher, personal representative  
                                 of Nannie G. Fisher, deceased

to

12/15/1983                    Donald Ross Fisher  
                                  Calvin Wainwright Fisher  
                                  \$150,000

FWH 100/340 Nannie G. Fisher

to

5/31/1957                      Everett J. Fisher, et al.  
Item #1    home farm of Nannie G. Fisher  
            and the late Robert J. Fisher

JEB 12/481 William H. Price, ancillary administrator  
of Mary A. Wiggins, deceased

to

9/19/1942	Robert J. Fisher
	Nannie G. Fisher
	\$2710.00

FHP 14/28 William R. Cropper and wife, Mary

to

7/9/1900 Mary A. Wiggins  
\$1000.00 Laban Taylor swamp farm 200 acres  
also known as the Sally Cropper farm

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HOLLY GROVE FARM

Taylorville vic., Maryland

Chain of title

FHP 9/228

Sallie M. Cropper

to

3/29/1897

William R. Cropper, City of Wilmington, De.  
\$1000 160 acres  
"Laban Taylor swamp farm"

GTB 3/211

Last will and testament of  
Thomas N. Quillen

to

Written

5/3/1884

Proved

8/6/1884

daughter, Sallie M. Cropper  
Item #9 Laban Taylor swamp farm

ITM 2/384

Ephraim K. Wilson, trustee to sell the  
real estate of Laban J. Taylor

to

12/19/1872

Thomas N. Quillen \$5010.00

Equity Case 2/20/1866

James Bethards vs. William J. M. Taylor  
and others being No. 370 on the Chancery  
Docket

"The Home Farm" and "The Holly Grove Farm"  
Lot No. 1 and Lot No. 5

Chancery Proceedings 8/298

Lot No. 1, The Home Farm, is part of two  
tracts of land called "Eagle Point" and  
"Fishing Point" 163 acres

Lot No. 2, The William Taylor lot where William  
Taylor now lives

Lot No. 3, the Store and Granary lot consists  
of the ground upon which the Store House and  
Granary stand



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HOLLY GROVE FARM

Taylorville vic., Maryland

Chain of title

Lot No. 3, The Mill lot, with a grist  
and saw mill attached  $\frac{1}{2}$  acre

Lot No. 4, Chance, woodland, 10 acres

Lot No. 5, The Holly Grove Farm lying  
about 1 mile to the Southward of the main  
Home Farm & contains about 168 acres of  
land with usual farm buildings

EDM 5/370

Powell Pattey, John M. Pattey, Sarah  
A. Pattey, Fanny M. Pattey, Kendal J.  
Pattey, and Zadock P. Collier

to

2/25/1853

Laban J. Taylor

100 acres \$695.00

Whereas Powell Pattey did convey unto  
William McGrigor a certain tract of land  
called Holly Grove on 9/17/1822 and the  
said William McGrigor gave the said Powell  
Pattey a bond bearing even date with the  
deed to convey back the land to said Pattey  
called Holly Grove upon the said Pattey's  
paying the sums of money due & owing said  
McGrigor and the said McGrigor further  
devises in his will to his daughter Peggy  
Pattey       ?       her husband Powell Pattey  
should pay & satisfied the full amount of  
the obligation I hold against him-I give  
them the tract of land called Holly Grove  
for which I have a deed from him for &  
after the death of said McGrigor the  
whole business was left to Ephraim K.  
Wilson and Denard Williams and they as  
arbitrators awarded the said Powell Pattey  
to pay the sum of \$450 to the estate of  
William McGrigor

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HOLLY GROVE FARM

Taylorville vic., Maryland

Chain of title continued

Ruth T. Dryden, Land Records of Worceser County 1666-1810

p. 312 HOLLY GROVE

Patented in 1748 by Powell Patey for 52 acres

9/1/1768 ADDITION patented for 150 acres by Powell Patey

1825 William McGregor willed to daughter Peggy Patey wife  
of Powell Patey and then to her sons Kendal Patey and John  
Patey

1860 UNITED STATES CENSUS FOR WORCESTER COUNTY

Laban J. Taylor	50	M	R.E. \$9000	P.P. \$7000
Sally Taylor	48	F		
Margaretta Taylor	17	F		
Thomas Taylor	14	M		
Laban Taylor	10	M		

W0-359  
Holly Grove Farm  
Berlin, Maryland Quadrangle  
1967

